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None

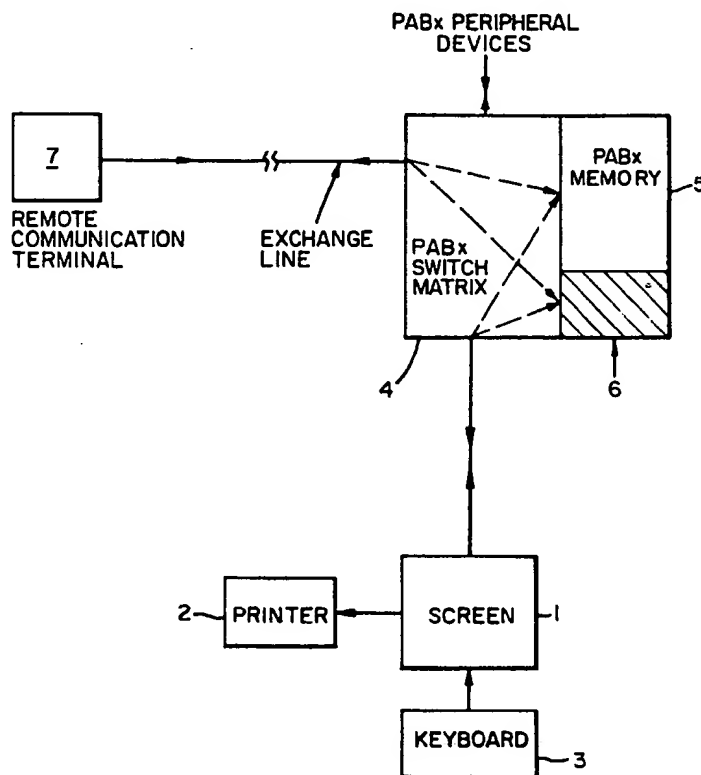
(58) Field of search
H4K
Selected US specifications from IPC sub-classes H04M
H04Q

(54) Automatic telecommunications or computing system

(57) In a PABX a region (6) of the memory is reserved for advertising data, e.g. relating to equipment available from the supplier of the PABX. This information is available to the user, from a keyboard (3), in response the reserved area's address and the user's password. The information on "call-up" is displayed on a screen (1) and/or printed out by a printer (2).

Updating is from a remote communication terminal (7) via a public exchange line.

The idea is applicable (if allowed) to a public telephone exchange, or in a data processing system.

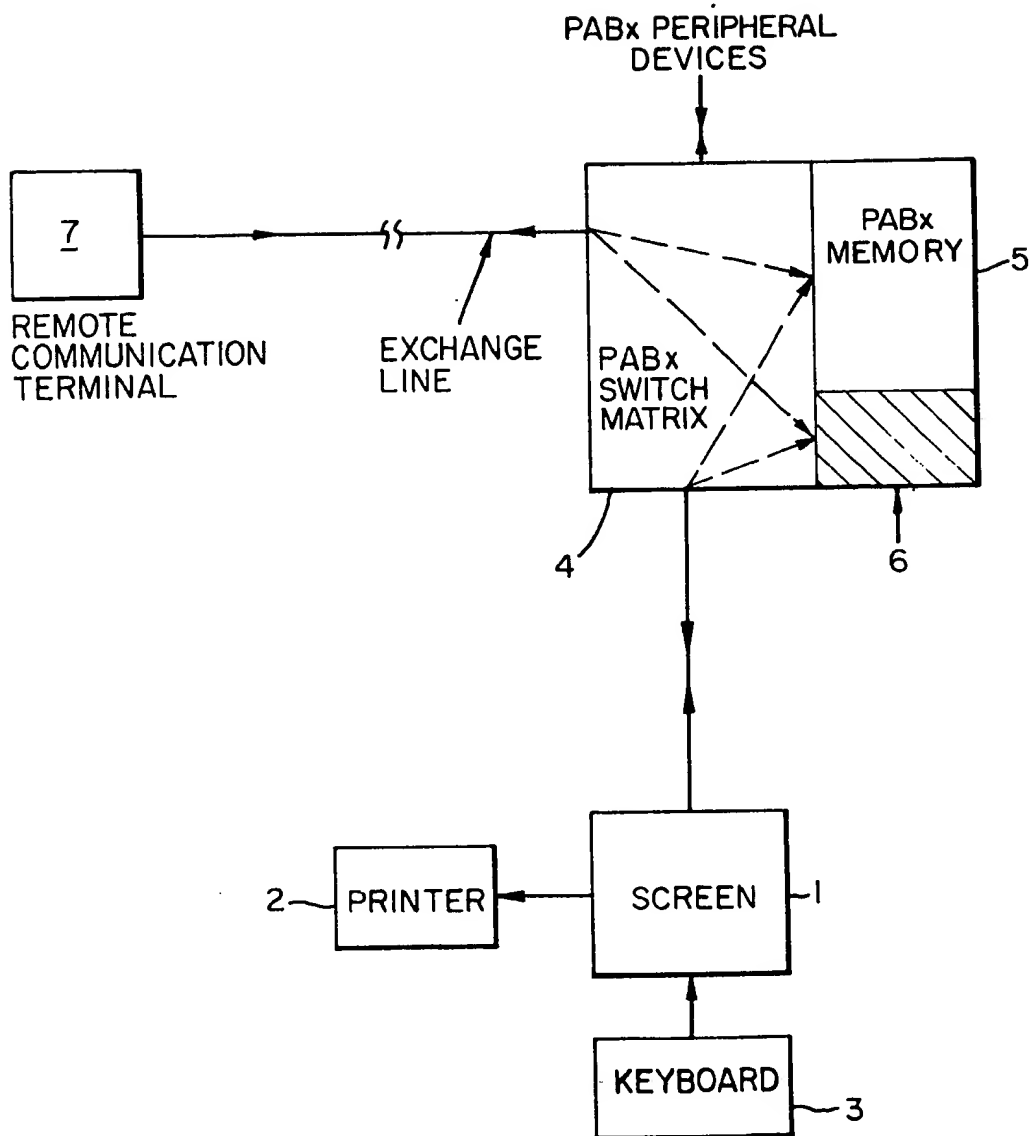


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SPECIFICATION

Automatic telecommunication or computing system

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This invention relates to an arrangement for the dispensing of information on request in, for instance, a data processing system or a PABX or a public telephone exchange.

- 10 According to the present invention there is provided a data processing system or a telephone exchange which is electronically controlled and which includes memory means, wherein the memory means includes a region
- 15 reserved for information, e.g. advertising data, not related to the control or operation of the system or exchange, wherein the information in that region is accessible from an interface to the system in response to the memory address for the region and a password appropriate to the user, wherein in response to such
- 20 accessing information in that region is presented to the user, and wherein the system or exchange has an input via which the information in the reserved region can be amended.

25 An embodiment of the invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying highly simplified block schematics.

- The arrangement shown in the drawing is for use at a PABX, but is applicable to other systems such as a public telephone exchange (if the administration is willing) or a data processing system.

- In the system shown the video screen 1, printer 2 and keyboard 3 are normally used by the customer for the management of the system on a day-to-day basis. The PABX switch matrix (or matrices) 4 has as part of its control means memory indicated at 5. This memory includes a region 6 not used for system control, and hence used for the storage of advertising information. This information is available to the customer on request from the keyboard 3, as a result of which the information can be displayed on the screen 1 and/or
- 45 printed out by the printer 2.

- Where it is desired to up-date, or replace, the information in the reserved region 6 of the memory, this is done from a remote communication terminal 7, coupled to the PABX when necessary via a public exchange line as shown. At this terminal information is prepared and then the PABX is "dialled" to enable the new information to be sent to the
- 55 PABX to replace or augment information already there. It will be appreciated that there may be a large number of PABX's with information to be up-dated distributed nationwide. In each case when such a PABX is accessed, the data for that PABX is "down loaded" into the reserved region 6 of the memory.

- When the new information is placed in the reserved region of the memory an indication to that effect appears on the screen 1 to advise the customer that there is new advertising data available. The customer can then, via a password allocated to him, renew this information, either viewing it, or printing it out, or both.

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CLAIMS

1. A data processing system or a telephone exchange which is electronically controlled and which includes memory means, wherein the memory means includes a region reserved for information, e.g. advertising data, not related to the control or operation of the system or exchange, wherein the information in that region is accessible from an interface to the system in response to the memory address for the region and a password appropriate to the user, wherein in response to such accessing information in that region is presented to the user, and wherein the system or exchange has an input via which the information in the reserved region can be amended.

2. A telephone exchange as claimed in claim 1, wherein said amendment of the information in the reserved region is effected via a public telephone line from a remote terminal.

3. A data processing system or a telephone exchange, substantially as described with reference to the accompanying drawing.

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